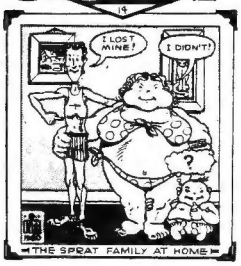
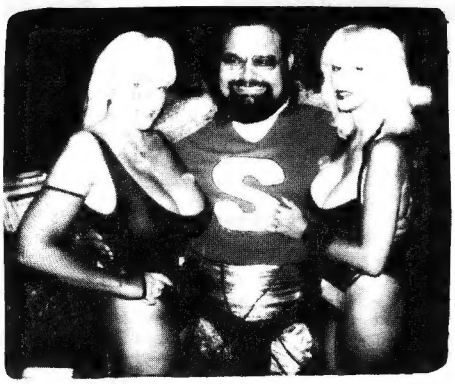
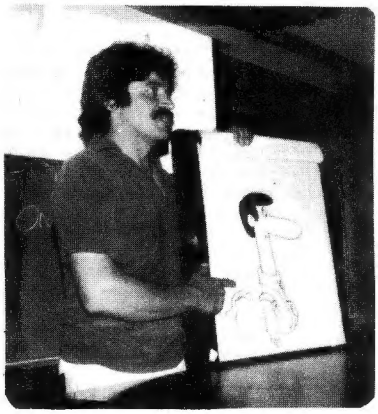
it was all over. At the Con, it looked to me like he was on a suicide trip. Copies of his sex comic, BANG! were circulating. It's nice sex art featuring a lot of well-known comic characters like L'il Abner and Snow White. It was a hard way to see Wood. This man is a God to so many artists (Jack Katz referred to him this way in announcing his Inkpot Award at the banquet.) and it was just heavy to see him treating himself so badly. If anyone ever looked conned out, he did. I thought the security guards were going to bust him when he came in the entrance to the banquet. He stood out as such a sharp contrast to all those young Marvel artists

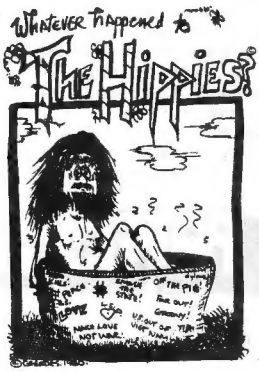
COMIX WORLD'S
BABYFAT
14



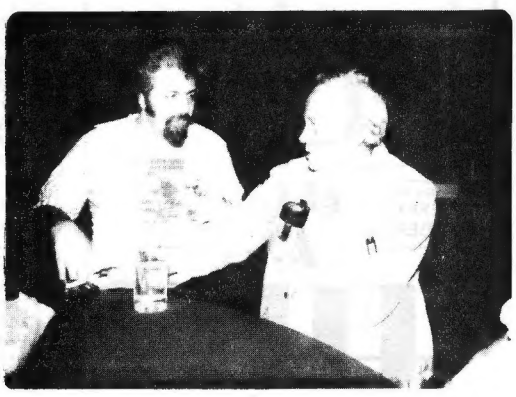


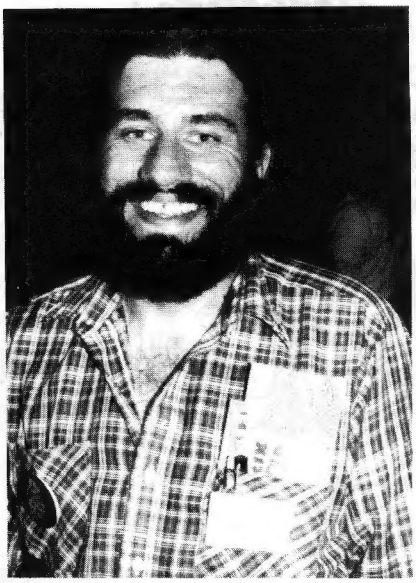
COMIX WORLD 153. August 15, 1980. © Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. World Rights Reserved. Logo by Valentino whose first solo comic has just been published by Krueger Productions. YER BASIC COMIX is $1.25 from Ken Krueger, P. O. Box 413, Oceanside, CA 92054. The two panels to your right show Valentino's diversified style. Each of the stories in his comic are done in a different artistic style. I asked him and six other artists the question: "What ever happened to The Hippies?" and those answers appear in the new eight-pager by the same name. 50¢/stamp from me. The other new minis are BABYFAT 14 (nice cover by Denis McFarling below) and TEENYBOPPER ANXIETIES (cover and one panel by Valentino. That's Captain Sticky next to us with those two buxom ladies. Guess which one is named Candy Samples? In the center is Phil "Travels with Farley" Frank doing his talk at this year's BAY CON. Farley runs in the San Francisco Chronicle and some 25 other papers. A hip strip, it is frequently cancelled by conservative editors. Lower left is Sally Harms giving leg at the San Diego Comic Convention held this year in heat wave. Never stay at the Grant Hotel. Though many of us had reserved our rooms months ago, they stuck us on the third floor with the worst





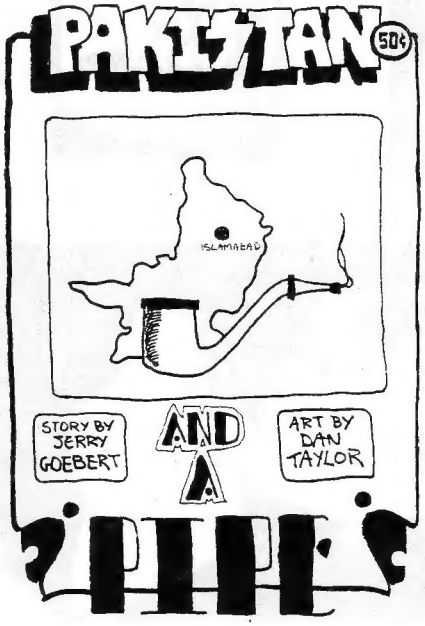
rooms and no air conditioning. Mosquitos all over the place. Later for that kind of third class treatment. The convention itself was low key. I hung around the "underground ghetto" a lot of the time and things were quiet. It's a straight Con, that's all. Good place to pick up Marvels and Golden Age books and to see the old timers like Dick Moores and Wally Wood. To give you the idea, Marvel panels are always crowded. About thirty people showed up for Wally Wood's slide show. Having partied late, he was half an hour behind the schedule (that's Wood lower right sitting with Spain at one of the cocktail parties). He sat through a lot of slides of his early WEIRD SCIENCE and superhero work and was, as he said, "just tired." Truth is, he's not well. I was told he suffered a stroke recently and that his doctor had told him to cut out chain-smoking and boozing or



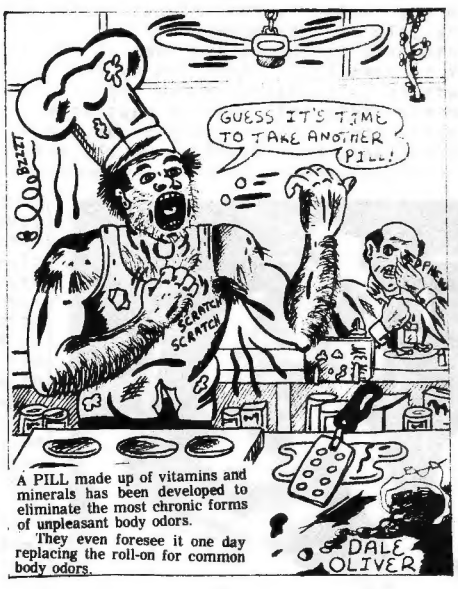


PHOTOS: © CLAY GEERDES, 1980.

in their East Coast tuxedoes. The Convention officials had to tell the security people who the man in the faded levi jacket and jeans was. He took his place at one of the head tables with the other celebs, ate the baked chicken, and slipped out before Jack Katz took the podium to announce the winners of the 1980 Inkpot Awards. Wood was long gone before Jack got to him. What's nice about the Inkpot Awards is that everyone gets one of them. Banquets are designed so that the fans who pay the tab ($12.75) get some time to chin with the celebs. The big stars, of course, sit at the head tables and chew the fat with each other; it's the lesser lights that get to shine closely on fandom. I sat with Lee Marrs and Mike Friedrich and just introduced all of us by our first names. We had a pair of empty seats so it was simple to let the fans assume our celebs never made it. I have to confess that I hate the kind of fantalk that goes on at conventions and I avoid Marvel groupies like the plague they are. Tunnel vision is what they have. No interest in anything but Marvels--the brainwashed.



The biggest crowd I saw at the convention was the one that showed up for the re-run of STAR WARS. STAR WARS, that's the motion picture that ended the career of George Lucas. Now that he's rich, he can't go outside of his house without having to deal with the get-richer schemes of all the hangers-on. I talked to a lot of people at the con. George DiCaprio was there. He had the cover of the second issue of COCAINE, a beautiful piece of art drawn and watercolored by Rojerio, a Brazilian artist I met in the Bay Area and sent down to L. A. No market for his kind of expertise in the Bay Area. Drawing at the Last Gasp tables were: Greg Irons, Spain, S. Clay Wilson, Victor Moscoso, Melinda Gebbie, Joyce Farmer, and Guy Colwell. Wilson was charging $150 a drawing this year. Last year he started at $50 and worked up to a hundred. I don't think he sold many this time around. A few people were dealing back issue ugs, but no one had anything rare on display. I talked to a lot of dealers and found out that sales were pretty low in general. Dealers buy from each other. The public doesn't come in to buy those ridiculously over-priced old books. The prices have peaked several times over as far as the public is concerned. I hung out with Par Holman in the Cosmic Aeroplane booth and the only thing I saw him sell was some pulp stuff and a couple of Marvels. He said they did pretty well, but I wonder if it is really going to continue to be worth it for dealers to travel long distances just to deal with each other and a handful of collectors they could just as well deal with by mail. I enjoyed visiting with Holman. We met at the Bay Con. David Miller was there. So was Jane Oliver (top row: Miller, Oliver, & Holman.). We talked about the newave funnies and what was going on in our lives. Jane has a second issue of VAMPIRE VIGNETTES drawn. Miller is working on a new mini. There were a lot of new mini comix at the San Diego Con. Roger May had a gross one called ALIEN CUM SHOTS. The MIGHTY SPAZZY guys had a new one. Roldo was down from Canada and had the first Winnipeg mini, a tale of the notorious HATTE BROTHERS. Orvy Jundis gave me a mini drawn by Alfredo Alcala with his left hand. It's called COVER. Some of the artists at the Cascade table did a jam mini, HORRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. J. Michael Leonard did the cover and Rick Geary did the back cover. Rick sat at the National Lampoon booth with M. K. Brown, Taylor, Gross, and some other artists. They all wore badges with their picture on them to let people know they belonged to the NATLAMP. Dan O'Neill was selling ODD BODKIN strips. Scott Shaw emceed the masquerade ball dressed as Pig Boy complete with rosy cheeks and checkered coveralls. It was not up to par. The only laughs came when a guy in Dracula drag sucked the blood out of the microphone. I was sitting next to John Byrne, a Marvel wit who kept asking "Am I having fun yet?" I heard Marv Wolfman say he thought Trina should be writing Wonder Woman. They were all looking at a nude photo of Trina printed in a magazine about Forey Ackerman, FANTASTIC FORRIES. Craig Anderson, the art director gave me a copy of his latest mini-comic, STASHBOX. $1 from Caddy, 1929 University Ave., San Diego 92104. Valentino had some copies of his collab with Gary Whitney, JOINT EFFORT. $1 from him at 11900 Oertley Circle, Garden Grove, CA 92641. Byron Werner's new one is PONTIAC TEMPUR , a collab with Carol Lay. $1.50 pp from him at P. O. Box 49623, L. A. 90049. PAKISTAN AND A PIPE is a mini by Dan Taylor and Jerry Goebert, 25¢/stamp from 125 S. Main St., Greensburg, PA 15601. Also available are copies of I Wouda RAN if Ida Known (25¢/stamp); Alex Tamsula's Collapsible Universe ($1) and Western Romance (50¢/stamp). This a paid ad, thanks Jerry. A delegation of 31 Japanese artists attended the San Diego Con (arranged by Orvy Jundis), among them Ozamu Tezuka, the man who does ASTRO BOY. The Japanese gave a great party. Conversed with American artists through interpreters.


GUESS IT'S TIME TO TAKE ANOTHER PILL!
BZZT
SCRATCH SCRATCH
A PILL made up of vitamins and minerals has been developed to eliminate the most chronic forms of unpleasant body odors.
They even foresee it one day replacing the roll-on for common body odors.
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